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Item 75 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

Note by the Secretary-General**

1. The General Assembly, in paragraphs 3 to 5 of its resolution 54/55 E of 1 December 1999, entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament":

> "3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their programmes of activities and implementation;
>
> "4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;
>
> "5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution".

2. With respect to the request contained in paragraph 5 of the resolution, it should be noted that the programmes of activities of the three regional centres and their implementation, as well as their financial and staffing situations, are contained in the following reports of the Secretary-General: (a) report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/55/171); (b) report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/55/181); and (c) report

* A/55/150.

** This note has been prepared in addition to the three separate reports respectively on the regional centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific and on the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/55/169).

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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

As mandated by the General Assembly, the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services continued to be implemented by the Geneva branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in 1999 and in 2000. Fellowships on disarmament were awarded to 26 officials in 1999 and 28 officials in 2000. Pursuant to relevant legislative mandates, the Secretary-General endeavoured to encourage Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme of fellowships on disarmament. As a result, 6 women participated in the programme in 1999 and 10 women are expected to participate in the 2000 programme. In 1999, the programme lasted 10 weeks, from 30 August to 3 November. In 2000, the programme is again scheduled for 10 weeks, from 4 September to 9 November.

The programme of studies is structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. To this end, they attend meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and other multilateral disarmament forums. In addition, the fellows participate in presentations made by senior representatives of States members of the Conference on Disarmament, in group discussions, as well as in practical exercises relating to the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly. The fellows are also required to prepare a research paper on a topic of their choice relating to international security and disarmament.

* A/55/150.

** The present report is submitted upon confirmation by all the 28 Member States of the participation of their officials in the 2000 fellowship programme.

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The second segment of the programme of studies comprises study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States, at their invitation. To this end, study visits are undertaken to Germany and Japan, to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague and to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and is intended to allow the fellows to familiarize themselves with the work of both the First Committee and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The segment includes a second cycle of lectures by senior members of delegations to the First Committee and United Nations officials, and regular attendance in meetings of the Committee. In the past two years, the segment included study visits to the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Washington, D.C., and to the Cooperative Monitoring Center of the Sandia National Laboratories, the latter at the invitation of the United States Department of Energy.

To date, the programme has trained some 500 officials from over 150 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme is making a concrete contribution to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament, greater expertise in disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 53/78 G of 4 December 1998, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the programme and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

2. It should be noted that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/2 and paragraph 2.6 of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, programme 2, disarmament (A/55/6 (Prog. 2)), the Secretary-General has endeavoured to encourage Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme of fellowships on disarmament. As a result, 6 women participated in the programme in 1999 and 10 women are expected to participate in 2000.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. 1999 and 2000 fellowships

3. Twenty-six fellowships were awarded in 1999. The respective names and nationalities of the officials who benefited from the programme in 1999 follow.

1.	José Paulino Cunha da Silva	Angola
2.	Guy Summers	Australia
3.	Masud Bin Momen	Bangladesh
4.	Oumarou Chinmoun	Cameroon
5.	Patricio Aguirre Vacchieri	Chile
6.	King Young	China
7.	Pedro Agustín Roa Arboleda	Colombia
8.	Maria Christina Sánchez Cisneros	Ecuador
9.	Pedro C. Ndong Engono Nchama	Equatorial Guinea
10.	Aaro Toivonen	Finland
11.	Amandeep Singh Gill	India
12.	Kingmano Phommahaxay	Lao People's Democratic Republic
13.	Ernest Nanjeen Urey	Liberia
14.	Sarah Nava Rani Al Bakri Devadason	Malaysia
15.	Ganhuurai Battungalag	Mongolia
16.	Siham Mourabit	Morocco
17.	Said Abdulla Mubarak Al-Amri	Oman
18.	Pablo Cisneros Andrade	Peru
19.	Elena-Anca Coca	Romania
20.	Luis Guilherme d'Oliveira Viegas	Sao Tome and Principe
21.	Ibrahim Mohamed Ali Bushra	Sudan
22.	Jeffrey S. Tshabalala	Swaziland
23.	Igor Popovski	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
24.	Job Emmanuel Elogu	Uganda
25.	Tetiana P. Ivanova	Ukraine
26.	Conrado Silveira Rodríguez	Uruguay

4. At 14 July 2000, the participation in the programme of the following 28 officials from Member States had been confirmed by their respective Governments:

1.	Hamza Khelif	Algeria
2.	Gaguik Hovhannisyan	Armenia
3.	Eric Franck M. Saizonou	Benin
4.	Leonardo Cleaver de Athayde	Brazil
5.	Raya Kostadinova Stoyanova	Bulgaria
6.	Nhem You Ry	Cambodia
7.	Oscar León González	Cuba
8.	Ojulu Owar Ochalla	Ethiopia
9.	Emmanuel Quartey	Ghana

10.	Bantan Nugroho	Indonesia
11.	Hammod Salem Máathidi	Iraq
12.	Diedre Mills	Jamaica
13.	Dina Podvinska	Latvia
14.	Nada Al Akl	Lebanon
15.	Priscilla Marie-Noelle Soogree	Mauritius
16.	Socorro Jorge Cholula	Mexico
17.	Uazuva Ben Kauari	Namibia
18.	Abdul Hameed Bhutta	Pakistan
19.	Frank R. Cimafranca	Philippines
20.	Lee Sang-hwa	Republic of Korea
21.	Mihaela Manoli	Republic of Moldova
22.	Natalia Kroutskikh	Russian Federation
23.	Miloš Koterec	Slovakia
24.	Priyantha Sumedha Ekanayake	Sri Lanka
25.	Hasan Khaddour	Syrian Arab Republic
26.	Zied Bouzouita	Tunisia
27.	Gabrielle Canonico	United States of America
28.	Isabelle Matyola-Lemba	Zambia

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Geneva branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. In 1999, the programme lasted 10 weeks, from 30 August to 3 November. In 2000, the programme is scheduled to be carried out again for 10 weeks, from 4 September to 9 November. The programme of studies is structured in three segments.

First segment

6. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. This is accomplished through both attendance in meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and participation in lectures by senior representatives of States members of the Conference. In 1999, the fellows also had the opportunity to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention as well as a presentation by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group on the work of that negotiating body.

7. While in Geneva, the fellows are also required to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament and security. This provides the fellows with a unique opportunity for the conduct of research and drafting under guidance, as well as in a focused manner.

8. Furthermore, two new activities were introduced in the 1999 programme and will be repeated in 2000. The first one is a practical exercise on the preparation of draft resolutions for the First Committee of the General Assembly. The second one requires the fellows to participate actively in group discussions moderated by the coordinator of the programme. For each proposed topic, two or three fellows are requested in advance to prepare short presentations of up to 10 minutes each. The presentations are then followed by open discussion by all other fellows.

Second segment

9. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States, at their invitation. The activities that follow were included in the 1999 programme and are expected to be carried out also in 2000.

10. The study visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna comprises presentations and briefings on such topics as the new strengthened safeguards system and verification in nuclear-weapon States, safeguards activities and inspections and nuclear safety activities of IAEA. Visits to the IAEA Research Centre at Seibersdorf and to the Prater Reactor are organized, and relevant documentary films illustrating the work of IAEA are also shown.

11. The study visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization includes presentations on the work of that organization and a guided visit to the International Data Centre. In 1999, the fellows were also briefed on

the preparations for the impending Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was held at Vienna from 6 to 8 October.

12. At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the fellows are briefed on the work of the organization, the status of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the verification procedures of the Convention, the work of the inspectorate and the inspection process, international cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention and the role of non-governmental organizations.

13. Keeping a tradition of many years, Germany and Japan continue to invite the programme of fellowships on disarmament for study visits to national institutions and for focused discussions with officials of the respective Governments. The study visits provide the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the national policies and work of the two Governments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

14. The study visit to Germany in 1999 included several briefings by senior officials of the Division of Disarmament and Arms Control of the Federal Foreign Office in Bonn. In addition, the fellows had the opportunity to participate in a round table organized by the Bonn International Center for Conversion and to familiarize themselves with the work of that entity. A guided, highly informative excursion to a conversion plant (Nammo Buck GmbH) in Pinnow, in the outskirts of Berlin, completed the study visit to Germany. A study visit by the fellows to Germany in 2000 is scheduled and is expected to include similar activities.

15. The Government of Japan and the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima continued to organize valuable activities for the fellows in 1999. Briefings on various topics relating to disarmament and security were organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, and the Japan Institute of International Affairs in Tokyo. In Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the fellows were received by local officials and taken to sites relating to atomic bombing such as the Atomic Bomb Museum and the Peace Park, in Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Institute of Radiation Effects, in Hiroshima. The fellows also met with survivors of the atomic bombing. The study visit to Japan in 2000 is expected to include similar activities.

Third segment

16. The third segment of the programme is normally held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and is intended to allow the fellows to familiarize themselves with the work of both the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The segment includes a second cycle of lectures by members of delegations to the First Committee and United Nations officials on items on the agenda of the Committee and the work of the various branches of the Department, and regular attendance in meetings of the Committee.

17. In 1999, two new activities were included in the third segment of the programme and it is expected that the same will happen in 2000. The first activity was a three-day seminar on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues organized by the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Washington, D.C. The Institute hosted the fellows to a series of briefings and discussions with officials of the United States Government and members of Congress, as well as with representatives from research institutes. Another highlight was a three-day seminar on cooperative monitoring technology and techniques organized by the Cooperative Monitoring Center of the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the invitation of the United States Department of Energy.

III. Conclusion

18. The programme was launched by the General Assembly at its tenth special session in 1978 to promote expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries. The importance of the programme in its 22 years of existence cannot be overstated and has been highlighted by the General Assembly on several occasions. The fact that the Department for Disarmament Affairs has continued to receive each year a large number of nominations for the programme from Member States attests to the level of appreciation for, and interest in, the programme by Governments. To date, the programme has trained some 500 officials from over 150 Member States, a large number of whom

hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments.

19. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme of fellowships on disarmament is making a concrete contribution to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament, greater expertise in disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security. The programme has thus enabled former fellows to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament be it at the subregional, regional or global level. Furthermore, the informal network of government officials spanning the various regions of the world created by the programme is an important added benefit in contributing to the pursuance of disarmament and arms limitation goals in a cooperative and constructive manner.

20. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

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United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 4, entry 11

The name *should read* Abbas Kadhom Obaid Abbas

* A/55/150.

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